

Reserve's independence. We've seen this time and again.

Earlier this year Financial Services Committee Republicans took up and passed the "FRAT Act", a bill which virtually eliminates any discretion the Fed has to set monetary policy—by forcing it to make decisions in accordance with a mathematical formula and by requiring GAO to investigate any deviation from it—even in the case of changing economic conditions.

Such absurd constraints on the Federal Reserve would inevitably increase uncertainty surrounding policy decisions, and decrease the public's confidence that the Fed can act appropriately in response to new economic realities.

In closing I would reiterate that it is important for the American people to understand that these bills are not designed to address real problems, or a lack of transparency. Rather, the FRAT Act—and the bill before us today—are unnecessary.

They will cause needless uncertainty and undermine the Fed's ability to conduct monetary policy in an independent manner.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADULT CARE OF CHESTER COUNTY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adult Care of Chester County on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in providing exceptional adult day services to the community. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 30 years, the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County have dedicated themselves to serving dependent adults, having provided services to over 2,000 individuals and their families during that time. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Adult Care of Chester County was named 2012 Outstanding Adult Day Center by the National Adult Day Services Association. For three decades, they have admirably pursued their mission to support and empower families in their caregiving experience by providing state-of-the-art care from a highly trained and compassionate staff.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 30 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Adult Care of Chester County for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAMUEL C. LOPEZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recog-

nize Samuel C. Lopez. Samuel was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from the Bronx Vocational High School. Samuel went on to attend New York State School of Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell University. After graduating, Samuel worked as a Journeyman Electrician Craftsman with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3 for over 30 years.

Samuel has always been involved with politics and helping his community. First getting involved in electoral campaigns in New York in the 1970s, he has remained active in politics since moving to Florida in the 1990s. Samuel has participated in numerous national, state, and local elections.

Samuel has taken the lead as Founder, Chairman, and President of numerous organizations including U.T.B., United Third Bridge, Inc. (U.T.B.), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (FPRHCC), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic and Minority Empowerment Committee, Brevard County's Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, and the Royal Order of Juan Ponce de Leon Historical V Centennial Celebration Committee.

Samuel is currently a member of the Brevard County School System's Minority Advisory Committee, the Eastern Florida State College Police Advisory Council, the Brevard Community College Minority Partnership, and is a past member of the Brevard County Historical Commission.

Samuel partnered with the Equal Opportunity Commission in bringing 19 successful discrimination lawsuits against the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3, which resulted in a hiring practice that promotes hiring minorities. Through his work with U.T.B. and the FPRHCC, Samuel spearheaded the effort for the installation of a Juan Ponce de Leon statue and sponsorship wall at the Ponce de Leon Historical Landing Site at Melbourne Beach.

I am happy to honor Samuel C. Lopez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,760,739,788,762.62. We've added \$7,133,862,739,849.54 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### URGING A STRONG FUNDING COMMITMENT TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support of this welcome bipartisan reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act—an act first championed by my friend and mentor Senator Chris Dodd. But I also think we need to go further as an institution to support families with the high costs of this critical care.

We all know that, given the realities of today's workforce, quality child care is both a necessity in today's economy, and very expensive. It is often a family's biggest expense, bigger even than their mortgage. Families living in poverty pay almost a third of their income—30 percent—on this care.

The Child Care and Development block grant—CCDBG for short—is the only federal support available to offset the high costs of child care for low-income families. It helps children in working families have access to the quality care they need to learn and thrive in life later on.

But if anything, we are moving in the wrong direction in terms of covering eligible children. In the poorest families in the United States, only one in six eligible children receives child care assistance. And, at a time when nearly one in five working mothers with very young children are working low-wage jobs, our commitment to these families has dwindled.

Since 2006, over 250,000 eligible children have lost access to CCDBG-funded child care. The monthly average of children receiving this aid has fallen to its lowest levels since 1998. And because of budget cuts, many states have seen waiting lists grow and rates for providers plummet. That means less quality care.

I support the new requirements in this reauthorization—They include conforming to state health and safety standards, unannounced on-site monitoring visits, and criminal background checks for providers. But these requirements will cost money. And according to the states, without additional funding, the number of families who receive this aid could be cut by as much as 20 percent.

Mr. Speaker, time and again families all across this nation have told us that we can make a positive difference for them by facilitating access to quality child care.

Countless educational studies have stressed the importance of good care at an early age for children. And countless economic studies have told us that the return on these sorts of investments, in our kids and our future, are amazing.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan reauthorization today. And I also urge them to match this vote with a strong budgetary commitment to CCDBG, and other critical child care investments, in the future.